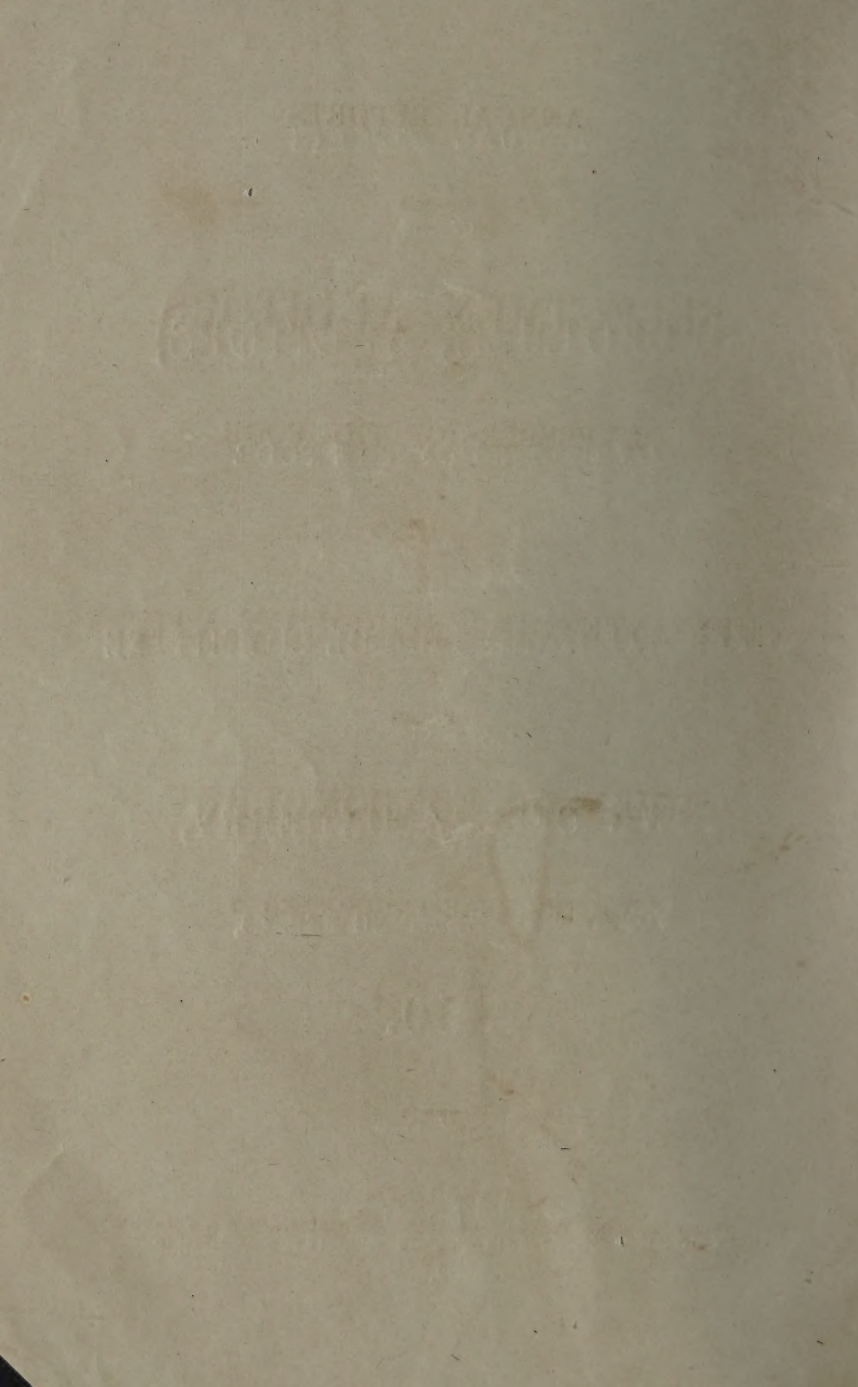


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ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN, AUDITORS,  
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
AND  
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TOWN OF LONDONDERRY,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 26,  
1859.

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MANCHESTER :  
HENRY A. GAGE & CO., PRINTERS, 85 MERCHANT'S EXCHANGE.  
1859.  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
STATE LIBRARY



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1859.





## REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

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The amount of funds chargeable to the Treasurer for the year ending	
Feb. 26, 1859, is.....	\$12258
To balance in Treasury, Feb. 27, 1858.....	859 66
balance of highway tax.....	385 26
resident list of state, county, town and school	
tax.....	2754 19
Non-resident list of do.....	397 92
"        " of highway tax.....	201 45
Resident        "        "        " .....	1350 65
List of School District tax, District Nos 2	
and 5.....	193 82
List school house tax District No. 8.....	839 87
Received from State Literary Fund.....	155 60
"        from County for support of paupers,	
a balance from 1856 and 1857	51 00
"        from county for support of paupers	451 35
"        state railroad tax.....	160 03
"        City of Nashua... ..	9 00
"        Edward Parker.... ..	35 00
"        for interest on revenue fund.....	199 33
"        "        literary fund.....	46 02
"        for stove.....	1 00
Principal of surplus revenue fund.... ..	3348 00
"        literary fund.....	819 77
	<hr/> \$12258 92
The amount of expenditures for the year ending	
Feb. 26, 1859 is.....	\$5239 30
By paid outstanding orders of 1857—8.....	809 24
Resident highway tax of do .....	385 26

State and County tax.....	1233 47	
Schools .....	1306 00	
School Districts,.....	985 00	
Institute .....	20 12	
Roads .....	57 25	
Highways and Bridges.....	18 53	
Resident highway tax in labor.....	314 75	
Non-resident      "      " .....	92 01	
Abatements on Lists.....	80 77	
Town Officers.....	267 45	
Interest on bills payable.....	140 23	
Lawsuits.....	301 80	
Miscellaneous expenses.....	86 67	
Town Farm.....	200 31	
Pauper expenses.....	798 70	
	<hr/>	
	7097 56	
Outstanding orders of 1858—9.....	1858 17	
	<hr/>	
		\$5239 39
Principal of Surplus Revenue Fund... ..	3348 00	
"      Literary Fund.....	821 39	
Balance of account.....	1814 24	
"      highway tax.....	1035 90	
	<hr/>	
		\$7019 53
		<hr/>
		\$12258 92

## APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.

### STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

Paid State Treasurer.....	352 10	
County Treasurer,.....	881 38	
	<hr/>	
		\$1233 47

## SCHOOLS.

Paid	School District No. 1.....	181 30	
"	" 2.....	171 82	
"	" 3.....	84 79	
"	" 4. ....	113 20	
"	" 5.....	131 93	
"	" 6.....	64 16	
"	" 7.....	168 81	
"	" 8.....	170 00	
"	" 9.....	116 82	
"	" 10.....	23 43	
"	" 11.....	79 74	
		<hr/>	\$1306 00

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Paid District tax, District No. 2.....	135 00	
" " 5.....	50 00	
School house tax, Dis. No. 8.....	800 00	
	<hr/>	\$985 00

## INSTITUTE.

Paid Rockingham Co. Teachers' Institute,.....	20 12
---	-------

## ROADS.

## STIMPSON ROAD.

Paid Wm. Stimpson land and damage.....	14 00	
Jonathan Savory, " ".....	10 00	
Jonathan Savory for labor.....	6 25	
John A. Holmes for surveying.....	1 00	
	<hr/>	\$31 25

## ADAMS ROAD.

Paid Charles Adams land and damage.....	26 00
---	-------



## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Alfred Randall, repair of highways.....	3 25	
D. D. Smith     "     "     "     " .....	1 00	
E. G. Greeley stone for bridge.....	3 50	
John Morrison, plank for " .....	2 86	
Calvin Boyd     "     "     " .....	7 42	
Joseph Annis     "     "     " .....	50	
	<hr/>	\$18 53

## HIGHWAYS.

Paid Resident Highway tax for 1857.....	385 26
"     "     "     "     1858.....	314 75
	<hr/>

## NON-RESIDENT HIGHWAY TAX IN LAROR.

Paid Highway receipts for 1857.....	20 79	
"     "     "     "     1858.....	71 22	
	<hr/>	\$92 01

## ABATEMENTS.

Paid Collector on lists of 1856 and 1857.....	33 29	
"     "     "     "     1858.....	47 48	
	<hr/>	\$80 77

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Calvin Boyd, Moderator.....	4 00
Matthew H. Holmes, Town Clerk.....	15 00
David R. Leach, Selectman.....	39 17
Matthew Holmes     "     " .....	47 94
Benjamin F. Whorf     "     " .....	30 94
Matthew Holmes, Select Clerk.....	10 00
Robert C. Mack, Treasurer.....	15 00
Lucien H. Nesmith, Collector.....	40 00
"     "     "     "     for District Taxes.....	13 86
John Dickey, Sup. School Com.....	22 00
Robert C. Mack,     do     " .....	18 00
Henry Goodwin     do     " .....	8 00



Robert Mack, Auditor.....	1 18	
Reed P. Clark, " .....	1 18	
Jonathan McAllister do .....	1 18	
	<hr/>	\$267 45

### INTEREST.

Paid Treasurer interest on Revenue Fund Notes...	98 18	
" interest on Page Note for 1857 and 1858.....	24 00	
F. D. Anderson, interest on Parish Notes....	8 40	
Interest on D. Corning, Town Order.....	3 96	
Collector for 1857, interest on Town Orders,..	5 69	
	<hr/>	\$140 23

### LAW SUITS.

#### COCHREN SUIT.

Paid Wm. Cochren.....	175 41	
John Porter.....	18 00	
Samuel N. Bell.....	15 00	
M. Holmes.....	2 77	
B. F. Whorf.....	3 75	
Town Witnesses.....	18 95	
for Board of Recreers and Counsel.....	6 75	
	<hr/>	\$240 63

#### LITCHFIELD SUIT.

Paid Town Witnesses.....	38 59	
D. R. Leach.....	9 34	
M. Holmes.....	4 57	
B. F. Whorf.....	8 67	
	<hr/>	\$61 17

### MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid Fisk & Gage, Town Reports.....	18 00
Fisk & Stearns, Invoice Book and Warrants	2 00
L. Welch, cutting bushes in Hill Graveyard,	1 80
M. Holmes, collecting county pauper money,	6 60

S. Gilcreast, enrolling Militia, 1857.....	1 00	
D. R. Leach, time and expense to Claremont,	9 12	
J. M. Gilcreast, fencing Hill Graveyard.....	2 00	
John Shipley, for Hearse and Hearse House,	1 75	
John Shipley, lock and repairing Town House	2 97	
D. R. Leach, to Sutton and Springfield.....	8 95	
Paul Otis, Sign Boards.....	10 00	
J. Marshall, binding record books.....	12 50	
James Anderson, Windham.....	3 50	
William Anderson, surveying town line.....	1 25	
for taking Affidavits of paupers,.....	1 50	
for certificates of witnesses.....	50	
for collector's book, stationery and letter		
stamps.....	1 73	
for blank certificates.....	1 25	
for wood for town house.....	1 00	
	<hr/>	\$87 42

### TOWN FARM.

Paid Edward Parker for cow.....	35 00	
A. G. Fairbanks for 6 yearling cattle.....	72 00	
M. H. Holmes, for 26000 shingles.....	70 20	
Schoolhouse Tax on Farm.....	23 11	
	<hr/>	\$200 31
Paid out standing orders drawn 1857—8.....		\$809 24

DAVID R. LEACH,  
MATTHEW HOLMES,  
BENJAMIN F. WHORF, } *Selectmen.*

## REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

### TOWN FARM AND PAUPERS.

Paid salary of Superintendent.....	\$200 00	
Henry H. White for supplies.....	43 78	
James M. Usher " ".....	38 89	
John Dickey for saw bill.....	18 33	
	<hr/>	\$301 0

## TOWN PAUPERS NOT AT ALMS HOUSE.

Paid City of Nashua for Mrs W. W. Colby....	\$10 51	
James M. Usher for Joseph Wright.....	12 00	
Town of Claremont for I. Greely's family....	23 39	
“ Lisbon “ Sally Richardson.....	14 15	
“ Sutton “ Elizabeth Richardson..	29 18	
“ Springfield “ Henry Richardson....	37 91	
Hepzibah Richardson for Henry Richardson...	27 00	
Mary J. Goodwin for Amos Goodwin.....	31 20	
for Mary R. Parker.....	152 05	
Warren Richardson for D. B. Mc Clary.....	1 00	
		<hr/> \$338 39

## COUNTY PAUPERS NOT AT ALMS HOUSE.

Paid Jonathan Savory for James Clark.....	\$8 96	
James M. Usher for “ “ .....	27 71	
Washington Colby “ “ .....	14 47	
John Folsom “ “ “ .....	34	
William J. Campbell “ “ .....	5 50	
Straw & Prince “ “ “ .....	4 50	
James M. Usher for Savory Bancroft.....	11 03	
Washington Colby “ “ .....	45 24	
William Anderson “ “ .....	23 50	
James M. Usher for W. H. Martin, .....	4 00	
Daniel G. Coburn, “ .....	3 52	
Washington Colby, “ .....	9 69	
Warren Richardson “ .....	50	
D. R. Leach “ .....	35	
		<hr/> 159 31

Londonderry, Feb. 26, 1859.

The undersigned, auditors of the Town of Londonderry for the year ending Feb. 26, 1859, have examined the accounts of the Selectmen and find the same methodically kept, correctly cast and properly vouched.

JONATHAN McALLISTER,	} Auditors.
REED P. CLARK,	
ROBERT MACK,	

## ALMS HOUSE REPORT.

INVOICE OF STOCK AND PRODUCE, FEB. 26, 1859.

1 horse,	\$70 00	3 " coffee,	36
1 pair oxen,	130 00	40 " lard,	5 00
4 cows,	120 00	85 " butter,	18 70
6 cattle, two years old,	90 00	70 " fish,	2 80
11 tons No. 1 hay,	143 00	18 " candles,	1 98
3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " " 2 "	31 50	6 quarts cranberries,	75
2 " " 3 "	11 00	41 gallons soap,	5 12
Lot corn fodder,	2 50	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " molasses,	55
3 shoats,	34 00	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> barrel crackers,	1 62
37 bushels corn,	37 00	85 lbs. dried apples,	5 95
13 " wheat,	19 50	38 bu. apples,	24 74
1 " peas,	1 50	2 " beets,	67
1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " beans,	2 25	50 " rutabaga,	15 00
5 " oats,	2 50	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " meal,	3 50
143 " potatoes,	57 20	4 barrels cider,	8 00
260 lbs. No. 1 pork,	31 20	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " vinegar,	5 25
150 " ham,	18 00	3 lbs. sugar,	27
100 " beef,	7 00		
15 " flour,	45		\$909 86
2 " tea,	1 00		

## ALMS HOUSE IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN.

		Dr.
To Invoice, Feb. 26, 1858,.....	749 49	
paid Superintendent's salary.....	200 00	
paid for supplies,.....	82 66	
6 cattle, 2 years old, bought,.....	72 00	
1 cow of Edward Parker,.....	35 00	
	—————	\$ 1139 15
	CR.	
By Invoice, Feb. 25, 1859,.....	909 86	
Rec'd from County, for paupers at Alms House,	280 58	
Labor, shingling house and barn.....	25 00	
Nails and Lime .....	7 60	
Building 15 rods wall.....	11 25	
Teaming four M logs to mill.....	8 00	1242 29
Balance for Alms house,		103 14

DAVID R. LEACH, } Overseers  
MATTHEW HOLMES, } of  
BENJAMIN F. WHORF, } Poor.



## LIQUOR AGENCY.

Town of Londonderry to Arley Plumer, Town Liquor Agt.	Dr.	
To Amount of Liquor bought.....		346 17
Services as agent.....		65 00
		<hr/> 411 17

Cr.

By Cash received for Liquor.....	346 17	
Liquor on hand.....	65 00	
	<hr/>	411 17

ARLEY PLUMER, Agt.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

Dr.

To John Gilcreast's note, dated Sept. 9, 1853 and interest from March 9, 1855.....	252 33	
West parish note dated Sept. 1, 1853, interest paid to Sept. 1, 1858.....	140 00	
Samuel C. Barker's Town Order.....	318 00	
Outstanding Orders of 1858-9.....	1858 17	
	<hr/>	2568 50

Cr.

By Balance in Treasury Feb. 25, 1859.....	1814 24	
Debt of the Town.....	754 26	
Notes due to the surplus revenue fund.....	1619 69	
	<hr/>	\$2373 95

DAVID R. LEACH,	} Selectmen.
MATTHEW HOLMES,	
BENJAMIN F. WHORF.	

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

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The Superintending School Committee respectfully submit the following report:

### INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS.

DIST. No. 1.—The Summer term was taught by Miss Hannah T. Rowe, of Kingston.

Miss Rowe has a very excellent yankee tact of dispatching a great deal of business in a little time, and yet, whatever is done is *well done*. Her qualifications for teaching are unquestionable. She loves the school-room and its duties. She instils into the minds of her pupils a love of order and decorum, and imparts her instruction with a single eye to the truest education of the mind and heart. Of course her pupils do not fail to reciprocate in some degree her kind and disinterested labors and every thing goes on with harmony and profit.

The class in Adam's Arithmetic was positively a *good* one, while the proficiency of those in English Grammar and especially the first class in Reading should not escape notice.

With some effort on the part of the teacher the pupils under her charge very liberally contributed a sum sufficient to purchase a set of Fowle's Outline Maps for the use of the school. We respectfully suggest that other schools equally enterprising and equally needy imitate their worthy example.

Auretta Moar, Agnes J. Thompson and John R. Gilcreast, were neither absent nor tardy.

The *Winter term* was in charge of Mr. Rufus A. Morrison of Windham, who labored hard in the school-room and met with abundant success.

His moral habits and general deportment were such as to exert in the highest degree a wholesome and salutary

influence over the minds of his pupils. We find here a considerable number of scholars well advanced in the common branches, and several classes which for real improvement during the past year are not surpassed by any in town, and with a succession of as faithful and competent teachers the school is destined speedily to reach a much higher standard than it has heretofore occupied.

The Prudential Committee is deserving of the thanks of his constituents for his unwearied efforts in securing the proper teachers and otherwise promoting the best interests of the school.

The register was black enough with marks of absences. One scholar, however, George H. Hardy was constant and punctual.

DIST. NO. 2.—SUMMER.—Miss Laura F. Marden, of Windham, Teacher. By her affability of manner, and skill in imparting instruction, she was well calculated to secure the respect of those under her care, and to meet the ideas of her employers as a good and faithful instructress.

Good order and diligent habits in the scholars were always observed. The Reading classes were drilled with good effect, and of course exhibited corresponding improvement. Some good classes in Grammar were noticed.

The less advanced classes, and *little things*, were not overlooked, but all seemed to receive a due share of attention.

Jane P. Campbell, Hannah C. March, Carrie L. Anderson, Adelle A. Tenny, Henrietta L. Peabody, Ida E. Peabody, Theresa M. Coffin, and Henry A. Coffin, were neither absent nor tardy.

The Winter Term is now in session, under the charge of Mr. E. B. Blanchard, of Windham.

The school has been visited at different times by the Committee, with very decided satisfaction. The duties of the teacher were performed with spirit and activity. Systematic in his labors, correct and ready in imparting instruction, and thorough in discipline, it would perhaps be superfluous to add that the school is making rapid improvement.

DIST. NO. 3.—Both terms of this school were taught by Miss Nancie J. Woods, of Merrimack.

The Summer School was highly successful; much improvement being evidently made. Miss Woods seemed to have labored very faithfully, and to have given abundant satisfaction to the citizens of the District, a large number of whom were present at the examination to demonstrate the fact.

In the Winter Term, difficulties arose beyond the knowledge of the Committee, resulting in serious insubordination, which ultimately, in a great measure, destroyed the usefulness of the school.

We cannot but express our conviction, however, that Miss Woods endeavored to discharge *her* duty, with a conscientious regard to the best interests of her pupils.

During this term, a change was made in the Reading book of the first class, which brought its own reward in a marked degree of improvement in Reading. The books in this school are now uniform with those of other Districts in town.

Martha M. Sculley, Ella J. Greeley, Emma M. Boyd, Alfred H. Randall, Christopher N. Holmes, and Charles R. Boyd, in the Summer; and Mary E. Sargent, James P. Howe, John C. Sculley, Eugene Curtis, and Christopher N. Holmes, in the Winter, were neither absent nor tardy.

DIST. No. 4.—Summer School.—Miss Myra A. Caldwell, Teacher. The Committee were unable to be present at the examination of this school, and cannot, therefore, state what progress was made during the term; but from knowledge gained from previous visits, and a knowledge of Miss C.'s abilities as a teacher, they do not doubt that the school was a profitable one. Miss Caldwell is abundantly qualified for the duties of the school room, and her activity and energy will always ensure success.

Abby F. Greeley, Mary F. March, Abby E. Kendall, Lucy E. Burbank, Clara Rolph, Albert H. March, were neither absent nor tardy.

Winter Term—Mr. M. D. Taylor, Teacher. This school was visited three times by a member of the Committee, and at each visit, evidence of Mr. Taylor's fidelity to duty and ability to teach were apparent. His manners are easy and familiar, and calculated to win the confidence and attention



of the pupils. The Committee were inclined to look with favor upon the teacher's departure from the usual routine of text books, and upon his exertions to give a practical cast to all the instruction of the school room. He says, near the close of his register :

"The general order of the school was not quite as good as it should have been. I had some large pupils who were good scholars, and who were orderly ; but there were others who did not give me all the aid they should, in point of order."

It is believed that if *all* the parents of the District would sustain and encourage the labors of their teachers to keep order, as well as to talk about it, there would be no occasion for complaint like the above.

DIST. No. 5.—The Summer and Winter Terms of this school were both taught by Miss Mary J. Reid. The Summer term was her first in town, and she met with that success which is the usual result of good scholarship, patience, and a faithful performance of duty. The Committee are happy to say, that at each visit to the school, it was under good government. The pupils were respectful towards their teacher, and attentive to their studies. Good progress was made in all the branches taught. The unusual interest which the Prudential Committee, Mr. A. P. Ripley, took in his department, contributed in no small degree to the general success of the school. The teacher says, in the register : "I endeavored to inspire my school with self-respect, and a desire for the respect of others ; to teach them to value knowledge for the good which it will enable them to do, and the happiness which it will afford themselves. I use moral suasion as long as it is effectual, and when it fails, I use confinement or the ferule."

The school-room in this District—always a pleasant one, but too small—was enlarged the past season, so as more nearly to meet the wants of the school, at an expenditure of about fifty dollars.

Ann D. Sampson, Abby T. Greeley, Marcia A. Harvell, Francelia Kendall, in the Summer Term, were neither absent nor tardy.

DIST. No. 6.—The Summer school, under the instruc-

tion of Miss Esther M. Goodwin, was short, consisting of only eight weeks. The school is also small, and consequently less enthusiastic than some more numerous. But the teacher was energetic, and devoted in her work, and with the kind co-operation of the parents and an obedient school, she succeeded in accomplishing much permanent good.

Rosilla Annis, Elizabeth F. Carlton, Roswell Annis, Henry T. Bray, Robert S. Hall, Henry R. Hall. were neither absent nor tardy.

The Winter school was taught by Miss Fannie E. Parker, a teacher well known in town, having taught the same and other schools in seasons previous, with rather more than ordinary success.

The school near the close passed a very satisfactory examination, showing conclusively as did that of the summer term, that its character is steadily advancing. Some very neat specimens of penmanship were shown. Robert S. Hall, Roswell Annis, Rosilla Annis and Nellie M. Corning were neither absent nor tardy.

DIST No. 7. Summer term, Miss Abby J. Rowell of Manchester, teacher. The school at each visit of the Committee was very quiet and orderly with less whispering and loud study than is usually found in schools of this size. Its characteristic fault, is *lowness of voice*, which if persisted in creates a deadness and stupor in any school, utterly destroying much of the credit which might otherwise be justly given to the scholars. The classes generally answered with tolerable correctness as far as they had gone in their text books which was a moderate distance. Laura J. Furber, Clara J. Rowell, George Adams, Frank Adams, Oscar E. Furber and George C. Pettengill, were neither absent nor tardy.

Mr. W. W. Morris of Manchester taught the Winter term. He is a teacher of some experience, and much real merit. His method of governing is mild but firm and decided, securing that respect for the teacher and for themselves so important in the profitable management of a school.

On examination, the school had made very perceptible progress. The voice of the school was more audible than at first, but still too low. The classes had advanced beyond

their usual limits and all gave evidence that it is soon to attain to that position which it should have occupied but has not for the few past years. A large class in Colburn's mental arithmetic considering their ages, was scarcely behind any in town. Are the citizens of this district aware that their school room is destitute of a *blackboard*? Why should so good a house and so numerous and enterprising a school be without that simple, cheap, but useful appendage.

The Register is blackened with marks of absence, but John Furber and Lewis Furber were neither absent nor tardy.

DIST. No. 8. Summer term, Miss Mary W. Griffin of Litchfield, teacher. At the examination of this large school, the most abundant proofs were seen of effective labor on the part of teacher, and prosperous industry on the part of scholars. A *very* large number of the citizens of the district manifested by their presence the interest they felt in the school and their approbation of the services of the teacher. *All* the various classes were well trained, no undue prominence having been given to particular studies. The result of this was a uniformity of progress in the several branches, not often seen at the examination of our schools. An impartial division of the benefits of our common schools, should be made. No pupil or class or study should receive an amount of a teacher's time and instruction that is inconsistent with the rights of others. Any departure from this rule is a violence done to that principle of equal rights which is the basis of our common school system.

Sarah E. Clark, Ruth M. Blodgett, Celestia A. Blodgett, Mary D. McGregor, Harriet A. Mc Gregor, Alice J. Sargent, Alice M. Whidden and David B. Mc Gregor were neither absent nor tardy during the term of 14 weeks.

Winter term, Mr. George Brickett of Derry, teacher. This was the first term of school in the fine new school-house, erected the past season. The district was fortunate enough to enjoy the rare combination of a good house, a good teacher and a good school. The house is large, airy, well lighted, sufficiently ventilated, and well arranged. No district in this vicinity of equal means has a more elegant house, or a more pleasant school room. It is hoped that those scholars who may attend school here, will take great care to keep the room clean and neat, free from the unsightly figures and stains, the cuttings and hackings that much

too often disfigure our school edifices and their surroundings. Much has been said in town in favor of dividing our large districts, but the sentiment of our people often expressed, is against this policy. It is believed that it would be better to *unite* some of our smaller districts, than to divide the larger. At the examination of this school, the advantages of a moderately large school over a small one were plainly seen. Mr. Brickett's management of the school was able and popular. The fact that a large private school in the district, now in progress under the instruction of Mr. B., is, perhaps, a sufficient endorsement of his abilities as a teacher, but the committee desire to unite their testimony, with others to his untiring energy and activity in the school room. The usually neglected department of writing received *this* teacher's attention. Having taste and ability to write himself, he naturally enough supposed that similar acquirements would not be useless to his pupils.

David W. Barker, George Boyce, Frank J. Boyce, John C. Dow, Charles Mc Gregor, Charles K. Noyes, Byron W. Sargent and Abby J. Noyes were neither absent nor tardy.

DIST. No. 9. Summer Term, Miss Sarah P. Noyes, teacher. This was Miss N's first experience in teaching, but her qualifications in point of learning were eminently satisfactory, and when the school was visited by the committee, her management seemed to be without fault. Orderly deportment, promptness and accuracy characterized all the exercises. To say that such a school was successful would be telling what no one would otherwise expect. We regret to say that ill health of the teacher obliged her to suspend school for a time, and although she resumed her duties, it was closed prematurely from the same cause without an examination.

The Winter School was under the care of Mr. David G. Annis. Mr. Annis, like his predecessor, was a beginner in the art of teaching, but if his present success is any criterion of that of the future, we may well hope that he is to become useful in that important branch of business.

The school, though small, can hardly be said to take rank below its cotemporaries. The advancement made during the year past, well nigh places it on equal footing in that respect with some of larger means and more numerous in scholars. The right kind of attention was given to



the elementary branches, and it is but just to say that all the classes acquitted themselves handsomely. Those in English Grammar and Colburn's Arithmetic deserve *much praise*.

DIST. No. 10. This school connected with No. 3 in Derry is reported to have been taught in the Summer by Miss C. R. Smith and in the winter by Messrs Samuel and William Marshall. There has been a more regular attendance here in proportion to the number of scholars than at any other school in town. Ellen A. Pond and John H. Pond in the winter, and Abby F. Mc Murphy, David Coburn, James L. Mc Gregor, Isaac B. Mc Gregor, Frank P. Mc Gregor, both summer and winter, were neither absent nor tardy—one-half of the whole school in summer, and seven ninths in winter.

DIST. No. 11. The summer term was taught by Miss Josephine Griffin of Litchfield. This was her first school, but the character of the exercises at the examination showed that she had made it a profitable one. The school seemed classified with strict propriety, and its general exercises conducted with efficiency and skill. A large number of the citizens of the district manifested a true interest in the welfare of the school by their presence at its closing exercises. This school, we do not hesitate to say, deserves a very respectable place on the progressive list. Nancy E. Hunttee was neither absent nor tardy.

The Winter term was taught by Mr. Newell Boyce.

The various exercises at the close indicated that the school had made fair proficiency, although not visited previously by the same member of the committee. We mention as a fact worthy of imitation, that a class of nearly half the school had gone through Colburn's Arithmetic, and deserve much praise for the very *intelligent* manner in which they solved the problems.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

Your Committee are happy in being able to report some progress both in schools and school houses. We believe some of our schools have attained a rank never before reached by any in town, while those usually in the back ground have advanced step by step and are now filling the places recently occupied by the former. We believe we are not mistaken, and we think no person at all familiar with their past and present condition will be disposed to dispute it. At no time within the official experience of your Committee have they been warranted in reporting so favorably of the Common Schools of Londonderry, as at present. A combination of circumstances and efforts, has, of course, brought about such a result. And first of all, we would mention the judicious selection of prompt and faithful teachers. Although it seldom happens that there are not some who are but poorly fitted in regard to literary qualifications, or who are unfaithful in their labors, or who have no real taste or capacity for teaching, and who contribute more to impart to their pupils a spirit of indolence, laziness and stupidity, than the more desirable habits of an opposite nature; yet we are happy to say that few teachers of that stamp have been engaged during the past year. But the most of our teachers were intelligent, thinking, working men and women, who labored hard and well to infuse into their pupils habits of thought and research, and a worthy ambition to excel intellectually and morally. *Such* have been successful, and to such we would award the credit, partially, at least, of raising the character of our schools, and elevating our standard of education.

And behind even this comes the part of the Prudential Committee, whose business it is to employ the teacher and transact all other prudential business relating to the school. A few deserve censure for neglect and apathy, but mainly they have endeavored to perform well the duties devolving upon them, and merit the thanks of their constituents. Then we believe there is an increasing interest outside of the school room, amongst parents and all friends of education, as evinced in the multiplied number of visits made during the year, and the just pride felt in the advancement of individu-

al schools, which has contributed its full share of influence towards enhancing their value.

Many other things might be mentioned as having due weight in this pleasing side of the scale, but let us look for a moment on the other side and notice some of the influences which essentially prevent our schools from attaining to that high standard of excellence and worth which was doubtless conceived by their patriotic founders.

Let us glance at that monster evil, *irregularity of attendance*, constantly and persistently gnawing at the vitals of our schools, and endeavor to get some faint idea of the precious time that is lost by the negligence of children, and the more censurable indifference of parents. In dist. No. 1, in the Summer term there was an aggregate attendance of 4560, non-attendance, 954; winter attendance, 3266, non-attendance, 1090. In dist. No. 7, the summer attendance was 2069, non-attendance, 1003; winter attendance, 2040, non-attendance, 712. In dist. No. 8, the Summer attendance was 3535, non-attendance, 1239; winter attendance, 3985, non-attendance, 1265. We find in these three districts, which we take at random, an aggregate attendance of 19455 days, and an aggregate non-attendance of 6263 days. Thus we may safely say that one quarter of the benefits of the school was lost from the one evil of non-attendance! Doubtless this was in some degree owing to sickness and other causes beyond the control of either parents or children, but the great burden of it must be attributed to an indifference and want of interest which is but too prevalent in the community. There is also a backwardness in procuring suitable apparatus, implements and conveniences in and about the school house. One school room at least has no black-board; other districts are satisfied with from 9 to 15 square feet, while only one in town is properly furnished. District No. 8 has 90 square feet, which is by no means extravagant. But one set of outline maps is owned in town. One district has a map of the United States and of New Hampshire. One has a clock; but of dictionaries and other books of reference, charts, globes and thermometers, there is a perfect dearth, not one existing in any school room in town. There are said to be two or three small libraries. Of how much value they are, or how much they are read, we do not know. Two districts at least are destitute of out-buildings of any kind, and not a solitary shade tree has ever been planted to ornament and adorn the path to science, except a *lonely elm in district No. 1*.

Is it then surprising that the thirteen hundred dollars so cheerfully raised and appropriated to purposes of education in this town should be productive of somewhat meagre results? On the other hand, should it not excite some wonder, that with all the discouraging draw-backs which hang like dead weights upon our schools, they should have arrived at the very respectable standing which they now occupy?

TEACHERS.—Each teacher has received a certificate from the committee, although in a few instances they were unable to pass a *good* examination. At this age when steam is the great agent in traveling, and men talk from the ends of the earth by lightning, it is, perhaps, not strange that young aspirants should presume to fit themselves for the teacher's vocation with the same despatch. They make a sad mistake, however, if they imagine that with a little smattering of Latin and Greek they are able to teach the English language, or if they have rushed through Algebra or Euclid, to the neglect of the *first principles* in mathematics, they are qualified to apply the rules in Adams' arithmetic, or if they have explored the heavenly bodies, and learned the position of every constellation in the heavens, to the utter neglect of a correct knowledge of the location and names of places on this "Terrestrial Globe," that they are in any just degree competent to instruct a class in the principles of common Geography. Teachers have presented themselves whose spelling would positively disgrace a school-boy, others whose knowledge of geography was at least twenty years behind the times, while in other branches, respectively, they sustained a very satisfactory examination. We leave the subject to their own judgment, and respectfully ask them to consider, while pretending to impart elementary instruction to the young, whether it would not be well to acquire a decent knowledge of the very *first principles* themselves.

There is an evil of some magnitude of which we reluctantly speak, as it has found its way into a few of our best schools, and been permitted by some of our most efficient teachers. We mean the practice of whole classes answering in concert in their ordinary exercises. It is a fault that cannot be too severely reprehended, and which we unhesitatingly condemn. We challenge any committee to pass a correct judgment, or anything approaching it, on the merits of a school indulging in this pernicious practice. Of course a few of the more active minds respond to the questions proposed, and often with a ferocious *yell* that shakes the very walls of the house, while a large part of the class, although perhaps equally well prepared, but unfortunately a little slower in speech, are actually prevented from reciting at all. No wonder that while the pride and ambition of the former become excited and pampered, the latter should feel injured and wronged, soon become disheartened and "hang their harps upon the willow."

Much credit is due to most of our teachers for the accuracy with which they return the items on page 6 of their respective registers, although some of much importance have been omitted in individual cases. Care should be taken to return the names of scholars in the register in alphabetical order. The importance of this will be understood when it is remembered that it is a part of the Committee's



duty to look carefully over each one of the twenty-two registers, and find the name of each scholar, therein recorded, that attended school in the summer, and its corresponding one in that of the winter, if it be there, or vice versa, in order to find the whole number of scholars attending school two weeks. A few minutes of careful attention in this matter by teachers would save some hours of perplexing labor of the Committee.

#### OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

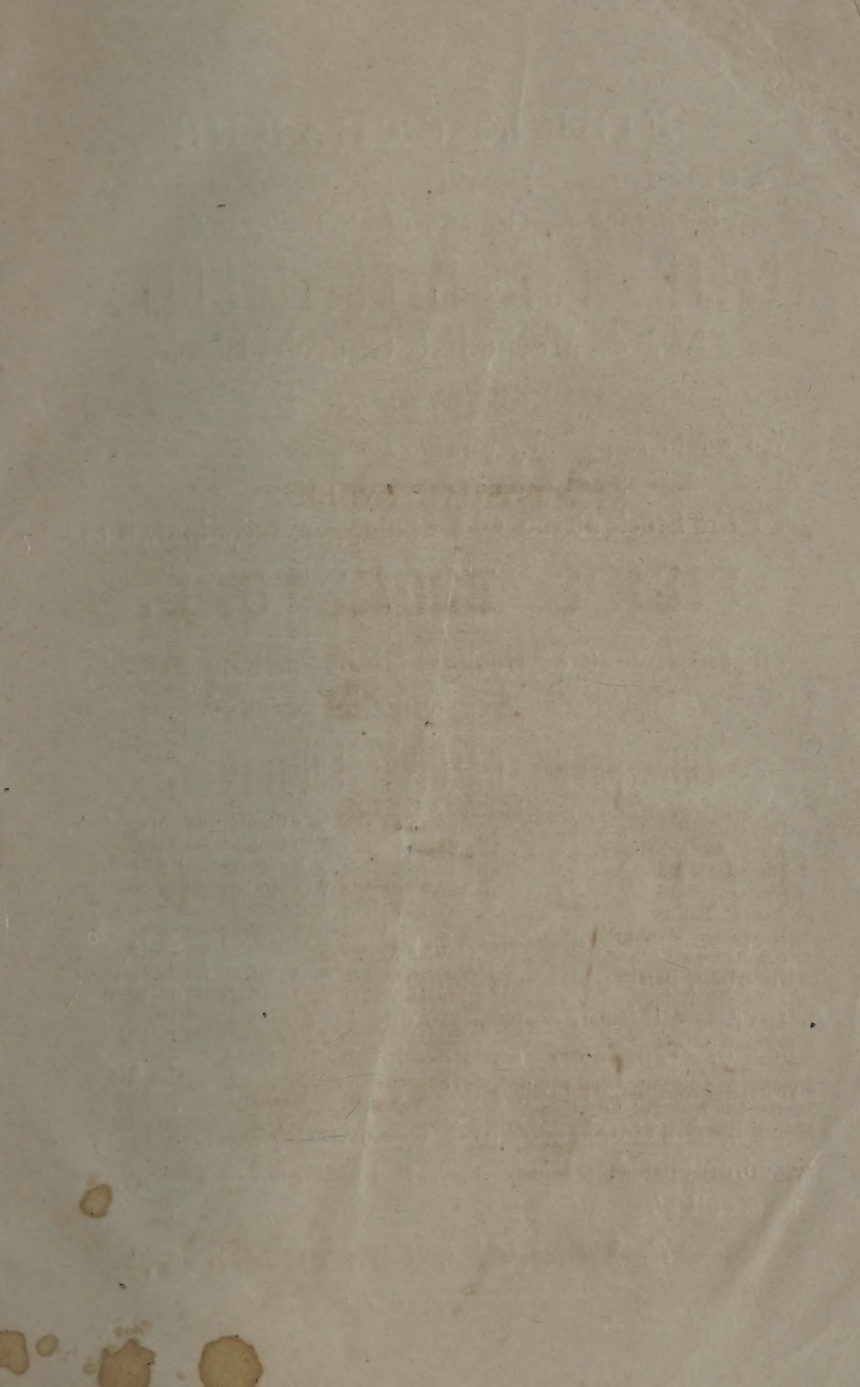
The peace and good order of some of our schools have been disturbed the past winter by rude boys not attending school, but who hung around the school room before the arrival of the teachers in the morning, or after their departure at night, for purposes of mischief. In some districts, acts of the most shameless character have been committed—acts which would subject to perpetrators to severe punishment, could legal proof be obtained, and in fact instances are not wanting, where the desks, seats, floors, doors and windows of houses have suffered violence from the hands of these intruders. Nothing is more subversive of the order and morality of the school room, than these offenses against common decency: Every person interested in the welfare of our schools should raise his voice and hand if needed against these outrages.

JOHN DICKEY,	} Superintending
ROBERT C. MACK,	
HENRY GOODWIN,	
	} School Com. of
	} Londonderry.

Londonderry, March 1, 1859.

## STATISTICAL TABLE.

No. of District.	Prudential Committee.						Whole No. at'ng sch'l 2 w'ks.		Average No. in Summer.	Average No. in Winter.	Amount of School Money to each district.		Wages per month of Summer Teacher.		Wages per month of Winter Teacher.		No. Weeks in Summer Term.		No. Weeks in Winter Term.	
1	Daniel T. Shipley,	101	65	45	181	30	21	00	31	69	13	12								
2	Jona. W. Peabody,	58	40		171	82	15	00	35	00	15	12								
3	Daniel H. Boyd,	42	25	29	84	79	14	00	18	00	8	10								
4	Samuel Smith,	56	33	28	113	20	15	00	32	00	10	10½								
5	Asa P. Ripley,	44	27	31	131	93	15	00	17	00	12	16								
6	Hezekiah Wetherbee,	31	14	15	64	00	12	50	18	00	8	18								
7	John Rowell,	59	32	32	168	81			35	20	12	12								
8	David C. Barker,	92	48	58	170	00	16	00	29	00	14	13								
9	John P. Wilson,	28	16	11	116	82	14	00	22	00	11	13								
10	Lewis A. Mc Gregor,	10	9	8	23	45	14	00	28	00	10	6								
11	Freeman C. Watts,	26	11	12	79	74	14	00	28	00	13	10½								
Income of Literary fund applied to Schools.....																	\$200	00		
Interest of Surplus Revenue " " .....																	100	00		
Money from direct tax " " .....																	1006	00		
<b>Whole amount of school money.....</b>																	<b>\$1306</b>	<b>00</b>		





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
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